

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00141 180021Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12
EB-08 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 IO-13
/094 W

-----180026 085854 /14

R 171131Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6462

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0141

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT ECON MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - FEBRUARY 17 (SUMMARY)

REF: PORT LOUIS 0117

1. THE SAD STATE OF THE MAURITIAN ECONOMY DOMINATED THE WEEK'S NEWS. AGRICULTURE MINISTER BOOLELL DECLARED IN A PRESS INTERVIEW THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IS CRITICALLY DANGEROUS THOUGH NOT DESPERATE, BUT IF DRASTIC MEASURES ARE NOT TAKEN THINGS WILL BECOME "CATASTROPHIC" WITHIN SIX MONTHS. HE DID NOT DISCLOSE WHAT POLICIES HE IS ADVOCATING TO HELP THE SITUATION, BUT MADE CLEAR HE BELIEVES THE UP-COMING SUGAR PRICE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EEC WILL BE CRITICAL, AS WELL AS SOLVING THE PORT LOUIS HARBOR CONGESTION, AND FINDING USEFUL EMPLOYMENT FOR SOME 15,000 GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT WORKERS WHO ARE BEING PAID TO DO NOTHING.

2. MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) LEADER BERENGER HAS APPARENTLY BEEN TRYING TO GET HIS DOCK WORKERS TO REDUCE THEIR ABSENTEEISM, AND SOME IMPROVEMENT IN UNBLOCKING THE PORT WAS CLEAR BY THE END OF THE WEEK. THE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO RAISE THE PRICE OF BREAD, DESPITE THREATS OF A NEW LOCK-OUT BY BAKERY OWNERS. HOWEVER, INFLATION CONTINUES

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TO WORSEN. THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SHOWS AN INFLATION RATE OF 9 PERCENT FOR ALL OF 1976, ABOUT HALF THE RATE OF 1975, BUT FOOD PRICES HAVE RISEN DRAMATICALLY SINCE JANUARY 1. THE MAURITIAN STOCK MARKET IS IN THE DOLDRUMS; AT ONE RECENT SESSION 22 ISSUES WERE OFFERED FOR SALE AT NEW LOW PRICES, BUT A BUYER WAS FOUND FOR ONLY ONE ISSUE.

3. ON HIS RETURN FROM ATTENDING CELEBRATIONS AND MEETINGS
IN TANZANIA AND RWANDA, FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER TOLD THE
PRESS HE LOOKED WITH FAVOR ON THE "ONE PARTY SYSTEM"
PRESUMABLY ON THE TANZANIAN MODEL. THIS SOMEWHAT STARTLING
POSITION HAS CAUSED A GOOD DEAL OF COMMENT, SINCE WALTER
IS KNOWN AS A PAST ADVOCATE OF A LABOR-MMM COALITION. WALTER
CLAIMED THE ONE PARTY SYSTEM "RESPECTS THE RULES OF DEMOCRACY,"
FOR ALTHOUGH ALL CANDIDATES MUST BELONG TO ONE PARTY THE
PEOPLE "CAN VOTE FOR WHOMEVER THEY WISH."
KEELEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTL00141
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0797
Format: TEL
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PORT LOUIS 117
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3295855
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - FEBRUARY 17 (SUMMARY)
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ECON, MP
To: STATE
Type: TE
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